

Calamus platyacanthus

24

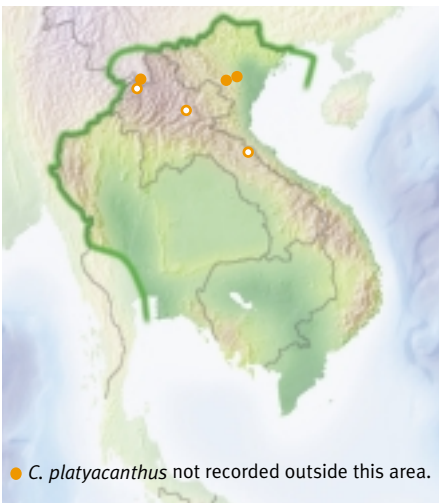
(wai namleuang, wai leuang)

Climbing Clustering Cirrus Knee conspicuous

A poorly known, variable species easily confused with *C. wailong* and *C. nambariensis*.

Look for:

- Large stem and leaves with cirrus. Leaflets strongly grouped.
- Sheath spines very long (5–9 cm), pointing down, with hardly any small spines amongst them.
- Fruit ≤ 2.2 cm long, with deeply grooved scales and a partly tubular perianth.



Habitat

Probable records in Lao from evergreen forest at 750–900 m. In Vietnam at 500–700 m.

Fruiting and flowering months

Flowers ?

Fruit unripe 6 (Lao), ripe 8, 11 (Vietnam).

Uses

Handicrafts: suitable, high quality?

Trade: suitable.

Shoot: edible.

Planting

None known in Lao but has high potential. Reportedly a commonly planted species in Vietnam.



BX 01 (left) + KP 387 (right)

Stem

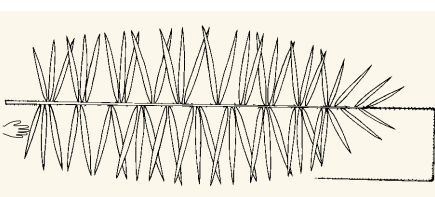
Stem at least 30 m long and 1–2.5 cm diameter.

Sheath 2–6 cm diameter.

Sheath green or yellow-green.

Spines dull yellow. Mainly long (often ≥ 5 cm or even 9 cm) and pointing down, with no or very few small spines amongst them.

Ocrea tiny, dry, with no spines or bristles.



Whole **leaf** 2–3 m long plus a cirrus up to 1.5 m.

Petiole of upper leaves 3–20 cm long.

Largest leaflets 30–50 cm × 4–7 cm.

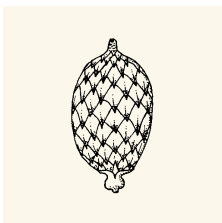
Width can vary greatly. Several prominent veins above, usually naked or with a few scattered spines. Margins bristly.

Inflorescence at least 1.5 m long with no flagellum. Erect or slightly drooping when long.

Primary bracts entire or with a neat dry margin. Slightly inflated, armed.

♂ usually 3-branched.

♀ usually 2-branched.



Fruit

1.8–2.2 cm long

1.2 cm wide

Scales deeply channelled with a faint dark margin. Perianth partly tubular.

Seed slightly ruminant.

Compare:

- *C. nambariensis* (23) and *C. obovoideus* (23a): some leaflets regular, a mixture of small and large sheath spines (up to 4 cm) and fruit ≥ 2.5 cm long.
- *C. palustris* (22): sheath ≤ 3 cm diameter, leaflets ≤ 40 cm, fruit ≤ 1.2 cm long with no grooves and the perianth not tubular.
- *C. wailong* (25): leaflets regular, longest spines ≤ 4 cm, young sheaths often have no big spines, only tiny ones ≤ 0.5 cm.